(vii) Institution of National Award for voluntary organizations/individual for outstanding work in the field of road safety by Department of Road Transport and Highways.

(viii) Tightening of safety standards of vehicles.

(ix) Provision of cranes and ambulances to various State Governments/NGOs under National Highway Accident Relief Service Scheme. National Highways Authority of India also provides ambulances at a distance of 50 Kms. on each of its completed highways under its Operations and Maintenance contracts.

(x) Widening and improvements of National Highways from 2 lanes to 4 lanes and 4 lanes to 6 lanes etc.

Computerisation of RTOs and Zonal permits for vehicles

2750. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to computerize all RTOs in the country and introduce zonal permits for transport vehicles across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the PAN card number has been made mandatory for registration of vehicles; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the vehicles exempted from it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) The Department of Road Transport and Highways has already made rules for issuance of Driving Licences and Registration Certificates in Smart Card mode. Computerisation of R.T.Os. is a pre-requisite for this purpose. Various States are at different stages of computerisation of R.T.Os. However, to assist the States, the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Road Transport and Highways) has recently approved a proposal for interlinking of all R.T.Os. in the country, at a total cost of around Rs. 148.00 crores, which, *inter alia*, also includes computerisation of R.T.Os. in the country. There is, however, no proposal to introduce zonal permits for transport vehicles in the country.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of answer to (c) above.

NH for Santhal Pargana in Jharkhand

2751. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for Government not planning a National Highway for Santhal Pargana in Jharkhand;

(b) if so, by when this road would be constructed; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (c) At present, priority of the